REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-5 were initially pending in this application. Each of the Claims has been rejected. The applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Accordingly, **Claims 1-5** are currently pending in the application. The applicants hereby request entry and consideration of the following amendments and remarks. Reconsideration and allowance are hereby requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112:

The Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the Specification discussed above support the Claims as drafted. Support for these Amendments is found in the specification. Particularly, the language of Claim 1 supports the amendments. Accordingly, the applicants request that the pending rejections of the claims under § 112 be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by *Honda et al.* (JP 10-82335 hereinafter "*Honda*"). The Examiner has pointed to paragraph [0023] of *Honda* as teaching **"the phosphorus atom content in the near infrared light absorption layer is 0.4 to 1.3 mole per mole of copper ions"** (recited in Claim 1). Thus, Claim 1 recites a molar ratio of **phosphorus atoms to copper ions**. This is different from what *Honda* teaches. *Honda* actually teaches that 0.05-10 mols of Lynn compound are added to a mol of copper containing compound. The molar weight of a phosphorus atom (as taught in Claim 1) is different from the molar weight of the *Honda* Lynn compound (which contains some phosphorus). Moreover, the molar weight of a copper ion (as in Claim 1) is different from the molar weight of the copper containing compound discussed in *Honda*.

These differences between the claimed invention and the cited art are significant. Some salient examples are provided in the table below.

	the compound containing Lynn (phosphorus) atom				Copper hydroxide (97.56)	P/Cu
	Formula 5 (Mw=224.17)	Formula 6 (350.34)	Formula 7 (220.14)	Formula 8 (322.28)		
	6 parts by weight	15 part by weight	6 part by weight	15 part by weight	2.5 part by weight	
example 1	26.8mmol	42.8mmol	-	-	25.6mmol	2.7
example 2	26.8mmol	42.8mmol	-	-	25.6mmol	2.7
example 3	-	-	27.3mmol	46.5mmol	25.6mmol	2.9
example 4	26.8mmol	42.8mmol	-	-	25.6mmol	2.7
example 5	26.8mmol	42.8mmol	-	-	25.6mmol	2.7

The five examples above are taken from Honda and used to demonstrate that the Honda reference does not teach the required ratio of P atoms to Cu ions as claimed in the present invention. The far right hand column demonstrates the resultant P/Cu ratio demonstrated by the cited art. These ratios range from 2.7 to 2.9. This is well outside the 0.4-1.3 range recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the cited art fails to anticipate the claimed invention as embodied by Claim 1. The same can be said of Claim 2 (which covers a narrower range) and Claim which each depend on Claim 1. It is likely that the misapplication of *Honda* is due to the relatively poor quality of the computer-generated translation used.

Therefore, for at least the reasons explained above, the applicants request that this ground of rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 4 and 5 stand rejected as being unpatentable over *Honda* in view of *Shouji et al.* (USPN 5,611,965) (hereinafter *Shouji*) under 35 U.S.C. § 103. *Shouji* teaches that the copolymer is mixed with water or an organic solvent. This is different from Claim 4. In Claim 4, the phosphoric ester compound and a copper salt are mixed with water. Particularly, the phosphoric ester compound is mixed with the water while it is in a **monomer state** **NOT** in the copolymer state as taught in *Shouji*.

Moreover, mixing the phosphoric ester compound in the monomeric state provides several non-obvious advantages not readily apparent from any teaching or suggestion in *Shouji* or *Honda*. For one, by mixing the phosphoric ester compound in the monomeric state the stability of the solution is significantly increased. Also, by polymerizing the phosphoric ester compound from its monomeric state, the transparency of the resulting polymer is significantly increased. This is a particularly important advantage in the display applications for which the claimed invention is used. See, for example, the Specification at page 54, lines 13-26.

Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit that the cited references do not teach all of the limitation of the claimed invention. Moreover, for at least the reasons offered above (i.e., that the recited combination of features provide a surprising and advantageous process advantage not taught or suggested by the prior art), the applicants believe that it is not obvious to combine the cited references to produce the claimed invention.

Accordingly, the applicants submit that the cited art (together or in any reasonable combination) does not teach or suggest the limitations of Claims 4 or 5. Therefore, the

applicants submit that the cited art fails to establish a prima facie case of obviousness. Therefore, the applicants request that this ground of rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion:

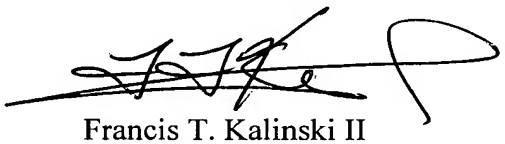
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed invention as presently presented is patentable over the art of record and that this case is now in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, the applicants request withdrawal of all pending rejections and request reconsideration of the pending application and prompt passage to issuance. As an aside, the applicants clarify that any lack of response to any of the issues raised by the Examiner is not an admission by the applicant as to the accuracy of the Examiner's assertions with respect to such issues. Accordingly, applicant's specifically reserve the right to respond to such issues at a later time during the prosecution of the present application, should such a need arise.

As always, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the applicants representative to discuss any matters pertaining to this case. Should the Examiner wish to contact the undersigned for any reason, the telephone numbers set out below can be used.

Respectfully submitted,

BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP



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